

Stevens, Tim Narges and Kristine Armstrong. Would you please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. (Names are phonetic.) Thank you for joining us today. Senator Hillman, you're next, speaking to the Bohlke amendment to LB 840.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I guess one of the things I would like to clarify is that we talk a lot about Class I schools and there is some counties, and I'm going to give an example of Scotts Bluff County, that has started a dialogue that could look at perhaps in the future having a county system. You're looking to the cities of Gering and Scottsbluff which have, you know or rank 278th and 282nd according to Senator Withem's handout here because of their close proximity geographically that have also had discussions of merger off and on and have also looked at the disincentive as far as what that might mean in state aid and it has slowed down I think. It's an assumption on my part, but it has slowed down somewhat the discussion. So this being an incentive I think would be and for that reason I will support the bill but one of the things I wanted to clarify, it's not always necessarily your smaller schools that are looking at consolidating. The other thing I was just curious about, Senator Bohlke, perhaps if you could answer a question or it's in Senator Wickersham's district, he is right there so he might be able to answer this also, I'm sure he could and that is on the area of Morrill which is in Scotts Bluff County and looking at when they reorganized, can you opt into this formula at any time or do you have to be starting from the very first? In other words, if they were still within that total five year period that we talked about earlier, could they come in like the third year or fourth year since they have already reorganized?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: They could if they're in that first five years, but in the case of Morrill I don't think that that's the case, is it? When did theirs, and Senator Wickersham would...Senator Wickersham...

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...the year that Morrill went through that consolidation was what year?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wickersham.